

Application No.: 10/542,939
Atty. Docket No.: P70697US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) An ostomy support garment comprising a portion of material fabricated to apply pressure against a wearer's skin to provide providing support to a stoma, said portion of material and having a through-passing hole going from an inside of said garment to an outside thereof, said hole being therein that is positioned over the stoma and has having a perimeter sized to encircle expose the stoma while leaving the stoma and an area a surrounding area said stoma exposed through the hole when the garment is being worn, said hole perimeter having a stabilized edge that is provided with an element configured to allow the perimeter of the hole to be increased and decreased to enlarge and reduce, respectively, the exposed area surrounding the stoma, said material having at least one slit cut therethrough that adjoins the hole and splits said edge to enlarge said hole by opening said slit, and said element being configured to close the slit to reduce the perimeter of the hole.

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5. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 4, wherein the element closing the slit is a lace placed in a passage at the edge of the hole, said passage being interrupted by the slit.

6. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 4, wherein the element closing the slit is selected from the group consisting of zip-like fasteners, snaps, buckles, buttons, rings, and mating elements of hook and loop fastening material bridging the slit at the edge of the hole.

7. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a pair of slits that each cut through the garment material and the stabilized edge.

8. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 7, wherein said pair of slits are positioned approximately opposite one another around the perimeter of the hole.

9. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 4, wherein the garment material is an elastic material to support the stoma and the element is an elastic lace threaded through a

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passage formed in said stabilized edge such that the size of the perimeter can be temporarily enlarged without unfastening the elastic lace.

10. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 8, wherein the stabilized edge includes a passage with openings adjacent each of the slits, said element including two cords respectively threaded through complementary parts of the passage and secured to one another when extended through the openings to fix the size of the hole perimeter.

11. (Currently Amended) An ostomy support garment comprising a material providing support to a stoma and having a ~~through-~~ passing hole therein that goes entirely through said garment from an outside of the garment to an inside thereof, said hole being positioned over the stoma and has having a perimeter sized to expose encircle the stoma while leaving the stoma and an area a surrounding area the stoma exposed through the hole when the garment is being worn, said hole perimeter having a stabilized edge that is provided with an element configured to cooperate with the stabilized edge to allow the perimeter to be increased to a size sufficient for an ostomy bag to be passed through the garment hole

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and also to be reduced to more closely surround and provide support next to the stoma, said stabilized edge being split at least once by a slit that extends from the edge of the hole into the material to enlarge the hole by opening said slit, and said element being configured to close the slit to reduce the perimeter of the hole.

12. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the element closing the slit is a lace placed in a passage at the edge of the hole, said passage being interrupted by the slit.

13. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the element closing the slit is selected from the group consisting of zip-like fasteners, snaps, buckles, buttons, rings, and mating elements of hook and loop fastening material bridging the slit at the edge of the hole.

14. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 11, further comprising a pair of slits that each cut through the garment material and the stabilized edge.

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15. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 14, wherein said pair of slits are positioned approximately opposite one another around the perimeter of the hole.

16. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the garment material is an elastic material to support the stoma and the element is an elastic lace threaded through a passage formed in said stabilized edge such that the size of the perimeter can be temporarily enlarged without unfastening the elastic lace.

17. (Previously Presented) The garment as set forth in claim 15, wherein the stabilized edge includes a passage with openings adjacent each of the slits, said element including two cords respectively threaded through complementary parts of the passage and secured to one another when extended through the openings to fix the size of the hole perimeter.

18. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 4, wherein said slit is cut through said material from the inside of the garment to the outside thereof such that, when said slit is opened, the hole

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is enlarged and a greater portion of the area surrounding the stoma is visible from outside the garment.

19. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 11, wherein said slit is cut through said material from the inside of the garment to the outside thereof forming two free edges such that, when said slit is opened, the hole is enlarged and a greater portion of the area surrounding the stoma is visible from outside the garment.

20. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 19, wherein said free edges are in non-overlapping abutment with one another when the slit is closed and are spaced from one another when said slit is opened, the spacing between said free edges when the slit is opened being greatest adjacent said hole and narrowing toward an opposite end of said slit.

21. (New) An ostomy support garment comprising a material providing support to a stoma and having a through-passing hole going from an inside of said garment to an outside thereof, said hole being positioned over the stoma and having a perimeter sized to encircle the stoma while leaving the stoma and an area surrounding said stoma exposed through the hole when the garment is

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being worn, said hole perimeter having a stabilized edge with at least one slit cut through said edge and an adjoining portion of said material from the inside of the garment to the outside thereof to form two free edges on either side of said slit, said hole being enlarged and a greater portion of the area surrounding the stoma being visible from outside the garment when said slit is opened.

22. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 21, wherein said free edges are in non-overlapping abutment with one another when the slit is closed and are spaced from one another when said slit is opened.

23. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 21, wherein when the slit is opened the spacing between said free edges is greatest adjacent said hole and narrows toward an opposite end of said slit.